

AV^{IN} Education

AUDIO • VIDEO • FURNITURE • PRESENTATION • WEBCASTING

FIFTH EDITION

A SUPPLEMENT TO TECH & LEARNING AND SYSTEMS CONTRACTOR NEWS



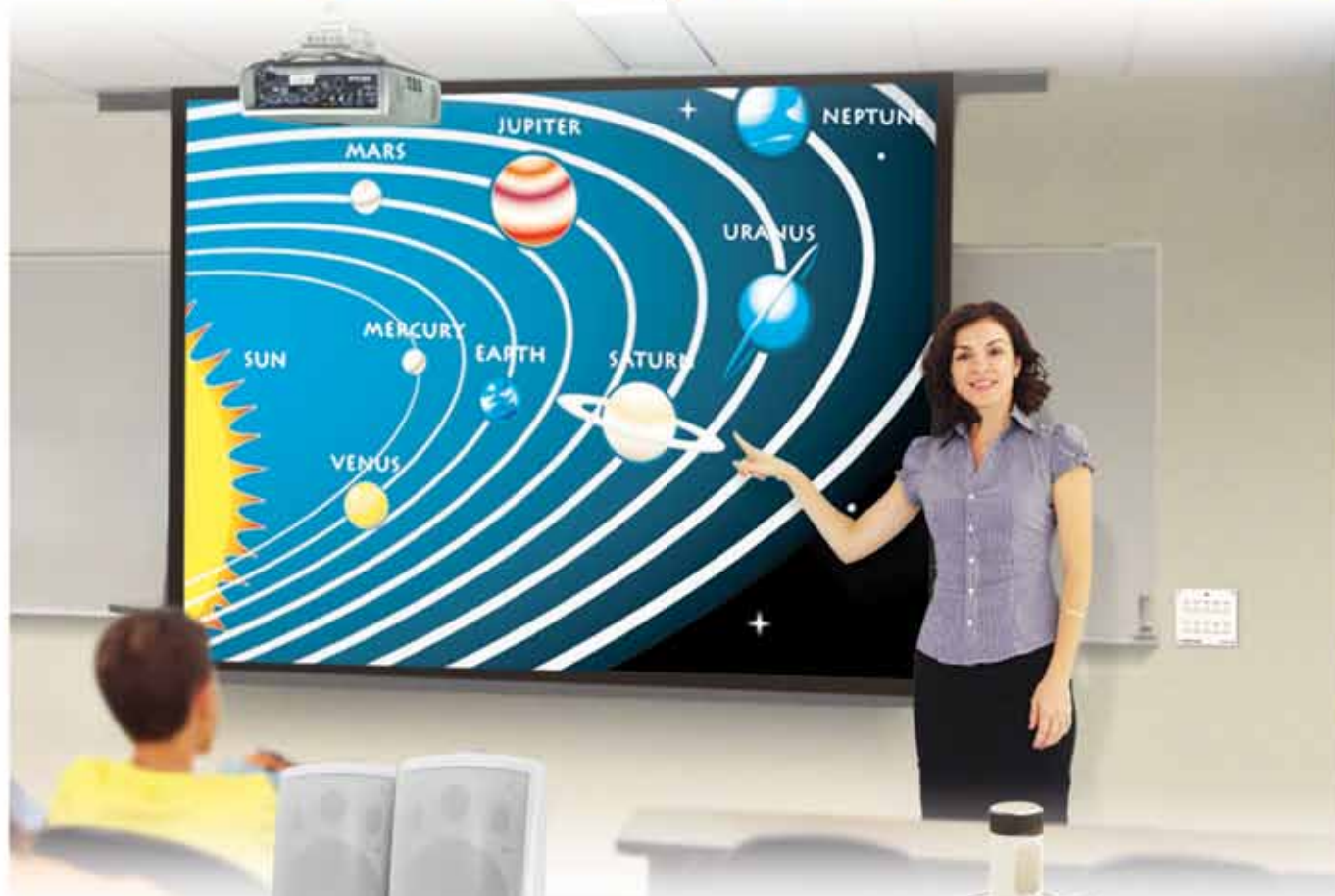
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Classroom AV

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Classroom AV

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The pages of AV In Education hold information on dozens of products, and offers many examples of how to use them in educational facilities in various forms and sizes.

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Kirsten Nelson



Field Trip

Few things can animate a classroom full of kids more quickly than the announcement of an upcoming field trip. Leaving behind the everyday learning environment for the hallowed halls of a museum, zoo, or even the local firehouse can inspire a new level of excitement in learning.

Of course, field trips can't happen every day. But modern learning environments are definitely evolving in a direction that may place the classroom just a bit closer to a museum experience. Thanks to technology, the outside world enters educational facilities through audio, video, and online content.

But these materials alone are just the first layer of the methodology by which educators are striving to keep students engaged. The next layer has been one of the hottest topics in education in recent years—interactive technologies. It goes without saying that kids today expect more from media than a two-dimensional experience. To really inspire learning, long-used techniques like group participation and individual students demonstrating problem solving at the front of the classroom are merging with handheld remote polling devices and interactive whiteboards.

What if the excitement of a field trip could be combined with the

What if the excitement of a
field trip could be combined
with the interactivity of
everyday learning tools?

interactivity of everyday learning tools? That's part of the objective at the new Summit Elementary School in Casper, WY. The first new elementary school built in the Natrona County School District in more than a quarter century, Summit opened its doors last August and ushered in a new era of education. The public school's nearly 400 K-5 students are attending classes in a facility that takes on the vibrant, interactive characteristics of a museum.

Tapping into its design experience in museums and learning environments, Lee H. Skolnick Architecture + Design Partnership (LHSA+DP) of New York, NY conceived of the school with RB+B Architects of Fort Collins, CO. The resulting structure emphasizes integrated, hands-on learning.

At the core of Summit Elementary's structure is a "Village Center," which is connected by a performance stage to music education areas and also serves as a large indoor play space during inclement weather. Radiating from the Village Center are three communal "Learning Houses," which provide a space for students of different age groups to learn together.

Casper's history as the intersection of several western trail routes in the early days of U.S. expansion inspired the Village Center approach. But LHSA+DP also referred to the Reggio Emilia education approach, which designates the environment as another teacher in the learning environment.

If ever there was a justification for technology in the classroom, it is this approach. Museums present some of the most astoundingly forward-thinking uses of audiovisual technology, and their mission is to educate and engage visitors. If we transfer those expectations to classrooms and learning facilities, we should change the way sound and video can assist in the role of teaching. Think of the most innovative museum space you've seen and ask yourself how you could implement some of those captivating ideas into your next school project. Every school presents its own challenges and limitations, and few have the endowments of museums, but there are possibilities in how we apply technology to the study of making every day feel like a little bit like a field trip.

AV In Education Product Guide

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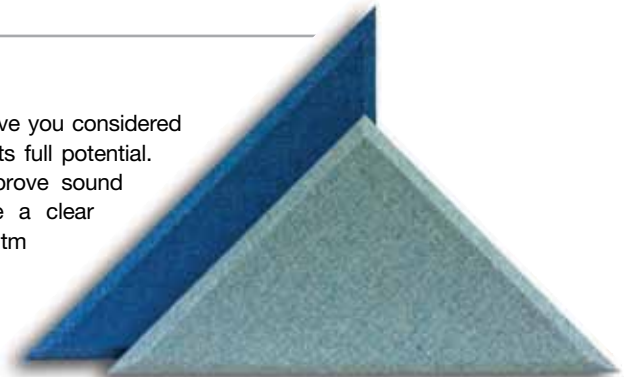
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AV In Education Product Guide

Video Mount Products

AV Mounting Systems



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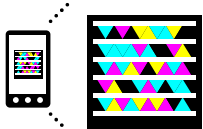
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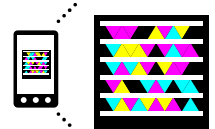
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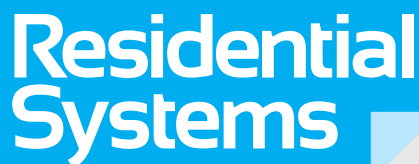
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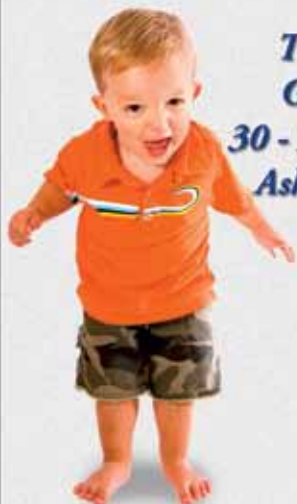
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Cloud Architecture for Class Capture: Why New York Law School Outsourced Hosting for Campus-Wide Capture

BY SEAN BROWN,
VP Education, Sonic Foundry

When New York Law School was in the planning stages of their new state-of-the-art facility, which opened in the fall semester of 2009, they also planned new academic technologies.

"The new building presented our team the opportunity to do away with the old and really explore technologies from all the different divisions of IT including AV," said Michael DeMeo, the Director of Academic Media Services.

They planned flexible rooms, including 13 main lecture spaces, seven more intimate seminar classrooms, two event spaces, 8 Lawyer/Client simulation rooms, one auditorium moot courtroom and another ceremonial moot court, designed for full-scale mock trials. Most of these teaching spaces are multi-camera environments with power outlets at student workspaces & smart podiums. These components are all networked and form a complex & fully integrated AV system. They were building to support campus-wide class capture.

The Webcasting Platform

DeMeo and his team studied the potential workflow and content life-cycle of what their class capture needs might be, endeavoring to answer questions such as: What users will generate the content? Where will the content be stored? Who will manage that content? And finally, where will the end users view the content?

"From origin to end user we broke it up into phases – the capture or content generation, the management and finally the public communication – we ran this exercise pretty extensively," said DeMeo. "After exhausting all the scenarios we knew we needed to standardize on Mediasite for class capture."

Also taken into consideration was the goal to provide in-room support for faculty unfamiliar with how to use the integrated smart-classroom technologies, including designs with ease of use for the faculty with considerations including microphone choice and Crestron touch panel design.

"We needed to free up hands and the way to do that is using Mediasite's automated scheduling system," said DeMeo. "This goes back to return on investment. The shift is from a mind-set where AV operators and technicians to press "start" for every recording to an environment where programmers review the AV tickets for the day and schedule those recordings in advance; to start, stop, publish, and send an automated notification to the end user, whether that's the Office of Academic Affairs, faculty or a sick student. Those are all secondary processes that you should take into consideration."

Cloud Architecture

New York Law School's new facility continued to build out in a very condensed timeline. Having chosen Mediasite as the lecture capture platform, DeMeo's team now faced the challenge of building a streaming media server from the ground up to support the thousands of hours of captured presentations. They eased their burden by using Sonic Foundry's managed hosting service, finding it more time- and cost-effective.

"We chose the Mediasite hosting model because it scales quickly. Since the students and faculty viewing this content were for the most part off-campus, we saw no reason to move our content server in-house and burden our network infrastructure," said DeMeo.

"In the academic world, you have to work efficiently to handle the requirements of different centers on campus. It takes time, budget, hardware and planning to build an infrastructure. Mediasite has already done that work, and there are case studies proving that it's working efficiently. It's out of sight, out of mind; it just works. For live events in particular, it provides our school the piece of mind to know our Mediasite server is out there and running."

Outcome

After more than five semesters humming along in the new building, DeMeo now utilizes Mediasite's reporting tools, using the information gathered to refine the lecture capture program and determine best practices. "Our entire catalog can be analyzed with granular metrics about our campus users, their operating systems, and which internet browsers they use to view content. These metrics are invaluable for discussions between the office of Information Technology and Academic Affairs. These statistics assist us in creating policies as they relate to our media platform."

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Ed Adams – Chief Technology Officer, Ross School of Business
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